

Springbank Community High School Council
Wednesday, October 18, 2023

Attendance : Melanie S, Darrell L, Kim C, Judy H, Raquel C, Kirsten H, Someya I, Allison S, Richard D, Michelle H, Summer D (for an introduction)

Melanie calls the meeting to order: 1:06 pm.

1. Welcome – Melanie S

- a. Discussion on what is considered quorum for a special meeting. According to the bylaws there needs to be 11 people at the meeting. Of those 11 people, there must be more parents than school reps. Only parents can vote on changes in bylaws and 2/3 of the parents voting must approve the change.
- b. Motion: Move to amend the agenda so that the special meeting is held after the Friends of Springbank meeting so as many people as possible can be present to vote on the changes in the bylaws.
All in favour.
- c. Melanie discussed how impressed she was with student behaviour on the French trip to Quebec. Multiple compliments from tour operators, people went out of their way to tell teachers and parents how well behaved the kids were. Great job to teachers, organization and parents for raising such great kids.

2. Approval of September 2023 Meeting Minutes

Moved by: Raquel
Seconded: Kirsten
Motion carried

3. Chair Report – Melanie S

Alberta School Council Engagement Grant

Through the Alberta School Council Engagement Grant, each school council receives \$500 to support individual school councils and strengthen engagement with parents.

This grant provides funding to school authorities (divisions) for each school in order to support school councils fulfilling their legislated responsibilities in the education system and enhancing parent involvement and engagement.

Activities that grant funds can be used for include ASCA learning opportunities such as workshops, annual conference, and customized services for parents to increase capacity for school council members.

Examples of parent engagement activities and projects that funds can be used for include:

- workshops for parents to increase capacity for school council members;
- information sessions on how parents can support student learning at home and at school;

- parent resources and workshops on important topics such as, mental health and well-being, cyber bullying, healthy living, etc.;
- programs to support multi-cultural and Indigenous families including, English language learners and First Nations, Métis and Inuit learners;
- parent resources and tools in multiple languages;
- events to engage parents on important local issues;
- conference fees;
- parent engagement in promoting the value of arts;
- trainer/facilitator costs for the professional development, workshops or sessions associated with the above.

Examples of non-allowable expenses include:

- entertainment costs, meals, snacks, other food;
- no capital asset purchases;
- activities that have already taken place;
- organization memberships;
- fundraising events;
- prizes or incentives to parents and/or students;
- payment to school board staff including honoraria, gifts;
- entertainment activities such as barbecues, volunteer teas, movie nights, dances, concerts or performances, etc.

ASCA Virtual Engagement

The Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA) Board of Directors invites you to participate in a *Virtual Engagement* opportunity on **Saturday, November 18, 2023 from 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm** via zoom

Engage with the ASCA Board of Directors on topics of importance to school councils and their communities. Items of information and discussion to be included (subject to change):

- Greetings from the Ministry of Education, ADM Kindy Josphe
- Special Guest Speakers: Family Engagement in Support of Student Success
- Current Education Environment: K-6 Draft Social Studies Curriculum, Class Sizes and Complexity, Funding, ASCE Grant
- ASCA Operations, Events, and Funding

ASCA is also holding an **Online Silent Auction** OPENS at 4:00 pm! See their website for more details.

School Council Engagement Task Force

The ASCA Board of Directors engages with Member School Councils, in an advisory capacity, through the School Council Engagement Task Force (SCETF). The School Council Engagement Task Force is comprised of parents throughout the province, who are identified by their school council, to provide input on relevant education issues to the Board of Directors. The ASCA Board recognizes the invaluable perspectives that individual councils provide, and appreciate the opportunity to gain a truly province-wide view from members.

If you are interested in participating, you can register on the ASCA website.

Members of the School Council Engagement Task Force must be willing to consult with their individual school council and parent community, regarding input on survey questions posed, and

submit responses to ASCA in a timely manner. Survey questions are distributed via email, along with information to help facilitate topic(s) discussion.

A summary of "**What we Heard**" back from members in response to topics or questions posed will be posted on the ASCA website.

4. Financial Update – Kirsten H

Nothing has changed over the month. Account added ~\$5.00 in interest.

5. Principal's Report – Darrell Lonsberry

See attached report

Discussion:

PBIS – is a program that comes from the US – designed to positively affect school culture. Identify values and priorities. Need to teach those skills. Tiered fidelity inventory is a person from Rockyview that has a checklist and randomly selects kids and staff and ask what are values (RISE). Where and how often do these values appear? Are the RISE values posted in instructional space? Last year we scored around the 50% mark, Springbank High School will continue to work on this. Goal #3.

Citizenship – what does that mean? This is based on the Grade 10 survey which goes out to all grade 10 parents, students and teaching staff. Questions on citizenship are based around if students were encouraged to help each other, etc... Survey received 28% response rate (52 total parents of 184 grade 10 students).

Controversial topics – Stepping Stones Program – the program was chosen due to conduct issues, specialist are brought in and parents are notified. Power point was provided ahead of time. Gender stereotypes were discussed. The majority of students attended. Work with students around the discussion of Consent. – this is in the spotlight. School has a process on how parents and guardians are notified.

Parental involvement – Reflected in the education plan.

Results of the Survey – Springbank is about 10% lower then provincial averages when asked if parents/guardians would like more opportunities to be involved in decision-making regarding their child's education. Despite efforts to involve parents our school seems stuck. Example IPP – only about 50% of the parents responded back. What are we missing? Do we need to do a survey to ask how parents want to be involved? Can we incentivize people? We will move ahead with some sort of survey.

6. School Trustee Report - Judi Hunter.

See attached report.

7. Other Reports:

Student representative for Council - Summer D- will be our student representative. Summer is excited to join the team. Her role is to provide a student perspective, not one vetted by council. She is excited to see how she can make the student voice heard and affect change.

Volunteer Coordinator - Allison S

Casino is booked for December 1-2 at Elbow River Casino. Sign-up genius for casino volunteers is ready to go. Shifts are typically 8hrs. The casino and Sign-up will be advertised in the Flyer for a couple of weeks and then followed up by a special email from Darrell. Darrell's letter will highlight how much money the casino raises and examples how items it funds at school.

Grad Representative – Michelle H

Thankful Miss OP. is helping and streamlining the process. Grad banquet will be discussed after the grad zoom meeting. Raquel has volunteered to shadow so we have notes on where to start for next years grad.

French Program Representative

In the Sept minutes – Stepanie R. was listed as the French program Rep. The role is still open. Stephanie was told her knowledge is important and she is welcome to come. She is chair of CPF in Springbank. The French Program Rep is the liaison between council and Sprigbank CPF.

Looking to provide our French students out of school opportunities to use their french. Last year they did 4 weeks of after school activities. This year there is homework help, and continue trying to figure out how to engage the kids. 3 kids from the high school are helping out at the middle school. Getting the kids to practice their French and encourage the kids from the middle school to stay with French. CPF runs the annual cheese fundraiser. There is no academic award particular to French students. There needs to be more French Immersion presence throughout the school to encourage students to stay in the program.

8. Other Reports:

No other reports

Meeting Adjourned: 2:12 pm

Next Meeting: Wednesday December 20th, 2023

October Newsletter, Trustee Hunter Ward 5

Schools are well underway with successful start-ups. I had the opportunity to attend the Welcome back celebrations at Elbow Valley Elementary, Springbank Middle School and Westbrook School. The weather was spectacular, and it was wonderful to watch the children playing and parents conversing. Thank you to the schools for hosting and providing food.

Rocky View Communications team have deservedly won a Canadian Association of Communicators in Education (CACE) award for the Space for Students advocacy campaign. This national award recognizes and honours exemplary work in all aspects of school public relations, communications, marketing, and engagement.

The Airdrie Community Engagement has begun. The engagement will inform parents of the serious space issues in the City of Airdrie and give possible scenarios to alleviate the overcrowding in schools. Options will include, changing a middle school to a high school, making boundary changes, and making grade configuration changes. Parent will have the opportunity to weigh in through the School Engage platform as well as community consultations.

Planning is in process for similar processes in Cochrane and Chestermere.

The Alberta government is consulting with stakeholders to gather input for revising the social studies curriculum. Public input will be sought in 2024.

Alberta says \$12.4M will create nearly 2,000 apprenticeship positions

The Alberta government is spending \$12.4 million that it claims will create nearly 2,000 new apprenticeship positions to be spread over five different institutions across the province. The new positions are slated to go to students at the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology in Edmonton, Southern Alberta Institute of Technology in Calgary, Red Deer Polytechnic, Lethbridge College, and Keyano College in Fort McMurray. In an interview with Postmedia, Advanced Education Minister Rajan Sawhney said the announcement reflects a growing need from employers.

Classroom Champions receives \$3.6M to expand educational programs for Western Canadian students

A mentorship program that connects Olympic athletes with children at schools across the country is set to receive a major funding boost aimed at bridging educational gaps and empowering young minds. Classroom Champions, a leading educational non-profit, has secured \$3.6 million in funding from 23 Western Canadian corporations they're calling the Energizing Community Collective. Steve Mesler is the CEO and co-founder of Classroom Champions, which now works with millions of students across North America by facilitating video lessons and interactive chats with athletes.

Alberta's population continues to surge growing by 184, 000 last year. This will impact our already overcrowded schools. Link below

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/alberta-population-growth-statscan-report-1.6979657>

The new Langdon Junior/Senior high school will open September 2025. Parents of Langdon are presently engaged in dialogue about the school grade configuration and attendance boundaries.

September 30 was Truth and Reconciliation Day, all Rocky View participated in activities related to this day.

Caretaking is presenting a problem for many schools. Rocky View Schools received additional funding during COVID for caretaking. The funding has ceased so caretaking has been reduced and schools are adjusting to the new "normal".

Springbank Community Associate in conjunction with Springbank High School is holding a raffle to support the Springbank High School Physical Education program. Please be expected students at your door selling raffle tickets.

Bussing times for Elbow Valley, Bragg Creek and Redwood for students going to the Springbank Schools due to construction on Stoney Trail and 22 X.

Gravel trucks were being detoured along RR 33 and RR 31 while RR40 was being paved. All trucks should be using RR 40.

Principal's Report to School Council

October 18, 2023

Education Plan Feedback

I had 2 parents request copies of the draft education plan but have not had feedback on it as of yet. I look forward to hearing feedback from Council. Once reviewed by council it is submitted to RVS leadership for their review/approval. After that has happened we will post it to our website and notify everyone that it is publicly available.

Controversial Topics

There is a great deal of attention currently being paid to how schools address certain issues that are perceived as controversial. Topics related to human sexuality, gender and inclusion are particularly hot topics. In light of that, I wanted to share with council the process we use regarding controversial topics, including how we provide parents and guardians the opportunity to opt their kids out if they so choose. First, controversial topics, as addressed in both the Education Act and in Rocky View Administrative Procedure are, "courses of study, educational programs or instructional materials, or instruction or exercises, [that] contain subject matter that deals **primarily and explicitly** with religion or human sexuality". In those instances, schools must provide notice to parents and guardians and permit that the student is opted out entirely, or that they may be present for instruction but not obligated to participate.

It is important to note that if the topic of human sexuality (including gender diversity) comes up naturally in a class discussion, the teacher may continue without providing notice to parents and guardians. It is only when the program, materials, or instruction deals primarily and explicitly with religion or human sexuality that notice must be provided. There are 2 courses that are taught at SCHS that include instruction related to human sexuality: CALM in grade 10 and the Health program at grade 9. We do not offer courses that deal primarily and explicitly with religion (for example, Religious Studies 20 or 30).

Academic Awards

We are resuming our academic awards program this year, with the event being held on October 26, beginning at 5pm Information was shared out in the Phoenix Flyer. Families of students who will be receiving an award are being notified and invited. Approximately half of our students achieved Honour Roll (80% or higher). We will recognize the highest average at each grade, plus the Governor General's Award, which recognizes the highest average in all courses in grades 11 and 12.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

We plan to again host hybrid parent-teacher conferences the week of November 6, with the 2-hour in-person block of time on Wednesday, November 8 from 4pm to 6pm. Teachers need to make themselves available for 4 additional hours of interview time via MS Teams that week. Parents/guardians will be able to book conference times with teachers through Conference Manager.

Opportunities for Parental Involvement

The Alberta Assurance survey from last year (filled out by grade 10 students and their parents/guardians) again indicated that parents/guardians would like more opportunities to be involved in decision-making regarding their child's education. Specific results are below

Parent - All

		N	A Lot %	Some %	Very Little %	Not At All %	Don't Know %	Top 2 Box %
To what extent are you involved in decisions about your child's overall education? Would you say	2019	29	41	21	34	3	0	62
	2020	39	23	41	21	15	0	64
	2021	35	37	40	17	6	0	77
	2022	37	49	22	30	0	0	70
	2023	50	50	24	14	12	0	74
To what extent are you involved in decisions about your child's school? Would you say	2019	31	19	26	32	16	6	45
	2020	39	8	26	46	21	0	33
	2021	33	6	30	27	33	3	36
	2022	36	14	22	44	19	0	36
	2023	51	18	24	37	20	2	41

		N	Very Satisfied %	Satisfied %	Dissatisfied %	Very Dissatisfied %	Don't Know %	Top 2 Box %
How satisfied or dissatisfied are you that your input into decisions about your child's school is considered	2019	30	10	47	13	7	23	57
	2020	37	3	38	19	3	38	41
	2021	25	4	56	16	4	20	60
	2022	30	7	33	37	3	20	40
	2023	49	8	35	14	10	33	43
How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the opportunity to be involved in decisions about your child's overall education	2019	31	23	55	19	3	0	77
	2020	39	15	49	28	5	3	64
	2021	33	3	64	21	3	9	67
	2022	36	11	47	31	3	8	58
	2023	51	18	51	18	6	8	69
How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the opportunity to be involved in decisions about your child's school	2019	31	13	61	13	3	10	74
	2020	36	6	56	22	3	14	61
	2021	30	3	63	20	3	10	67
	2022	33	9	39	27	0	24	48
	2023	50	14	32	20	8	26	46

We would like to work with School Council to investigate these results further, primarily focused on how parents/guardians want to be more involved in decisions about their child's school.